

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

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INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CH US

SUBJ: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE DELEGATION CONCLUDED VISIT

TO PRC

REF: A. PEKING 1403 B HONG KONG 11531

SUMMARY. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE (NCUSCT) DELEGATION CONCLUDED 12-DAY VISIT TO CHINA ON NOVEMBER 16. FINAL PRESS RELEASE WAS APPROVED BY CCPIT WITH CHANGES RELATING TO TIMING OF CCPIT DELEGATION TO THE US NEXT YEAR, EXTENT OF LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS REACHED, AND QUESTION OF CONTINUED NCUSCT PRESENCE AT FUTURE CANTON FAIRS. THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO KWANGCHOW WENT SMOOTHLY, AND THE GROUP THREW A LARGE RECEPTION FOR FAIR OFFICIALS AND US BUSINESSMEN. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE (NCUSCT) DELEGATION VISIT TO PRC ENDED NOVEMBER 16 ON AMICABLE AND SUCCESSFUL NOTE. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG THAT AFTERNOON, DELEGATION LEADER BURNHAM READ THE PRESS RELEASE REPORTED REF B, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND DELEGATION MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY FIELDDED FOLLOW-UP

QUESTIONS. RESULTANT LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, LARGELY BASED ON THE RELEASE ITSELF, HAS BEEN ACCURATE AND FAVORABLE. SIGNIFICANTLY, BOTH HONG KONG COMMUNIST DAILIES CARRIED FULL REPORTS OF THE DELEGATION'S VISIT AND RESULTS ACHIEVED.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO CHINA COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CCPIT) VICE CHAIRMAN LI YUNG-T'ING ON THE EVE OF THE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FROM KWANGCHOW. LI APPROVED THE RELEASE AFTER REQUESTING AND OBTAINING CHANGES IN THREE SPECIFIC AREAS. WHERE NCUSCT'S ORIGINAL DRAFT SAID CCPIT WOULD SEND A DELEGATION TO THE US IN "EARLY 1974", LI REQUESTED DELETION OF THE WORD "EARLY". IN DOING SO, HE TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN THAT THIS IMPLIED NO CHANGE IN CCPIT'S COMMITMENT TO SEND THE DELEGATION BUT NOTED THAT PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE MISSION WOULD TAKE TIME AND MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO GET THE MISSION TO THE US IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF NEXT YEAR. ON LEGAL QUESTIONS, LI SOFTENED WORDING WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPLIED A DEFINITE CCPIT COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION PROCEDURES. THUS THE FINAL RELEASE SAID ONLY THAT DISCUSSIONS "ON THE QUESTION" OF ESTABLISHING SUCH PROCEDURES WOULD CONTINUE. ALSO, LI ASKED THE DELEGATION TO DELETE A SENTENCE WHICH SAID THAT "IT IS EXPECTED" THAT NCUSCT REPRESENTATION WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE AT FUTURE CANTON FAIRS.

3. ON ARRIVAL IN KWANGCHOW NOVEMBER 13, DELEGATION MEMBERS REPORTED THAT THEIR VISITS TO SHANGHAI AND KWANGCHOW HAD GONE SMOOTHLY, AND THIS REMAINED THE CASE IN TWO DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN KWANGCHOW. HIGHLIGHT OF THE DELEGATION'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO THE CANTON FAIR WAS AN EVENING RECEPTION HOSTED BY NCUSCT AND ATTENDED BY AT LEAST FIFTY TOP FAIR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF ALL STATE TRADING CORPORATION DELEGATIONS AT THE FAIR. MOST OF THE 40 OR SO REMAINING US BUSINESSMEN AT THE FAIR WERE ALSO ON HAND AND SEEMED PLEASED BY THE DELEGATION'S PERFORMANCE. AFTER A FINAL DAY OF SIGHT-SEEING, NOVEMBER 15, THE DELEGATION WAS GIVEN A WARM SENDOFF BY LI YUNG-T'ING AND OTHER CCPIT AND MFT OFFICIALS AS THEY LEFT KWANGCHOW FOR HOME NOVEMBER 16.

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4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF USLO ESCORT OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION TO KWANGCHOW, THE DELEGATION'S VISIT WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS AND A GENUINE RAPPORT BETWEEN NCUSCT AND CCPIT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION LI'S EXPLANATION THAT, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, CCPIT COULD NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO VISIT US IN "EARLY 1974". A REASONABLE GUESS WOULD BE THAT THE DELEGATION WILL COME SOMETIME DURING THE

FIRST SIX MONTHS OF NEXT YEAR BUT NOT IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.
LI'S RELUCTANCE TO GIVE FIRM CCPIT COMMITMENT ON ESTABLISH-
MENT OF ARBITRATION PROCEDURES IS NOT SURPRISING, IN
VIEW OF CCPIT'S COOL FORMAL REACTION TO NCUSCT LEGAL
PRESENTATION (PARA 3 OF REF A). AS INDICATED REF A,
DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED THAT A REAL DIALOGUE
ON LEGAL QUESTIONS WAS INITIATED, AND THIS IN ITSELF
SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A SUCCESS. CONCERNING NCUSCT'S
PRESENCE AT FUTURE CANTON FAIRS, LI'S UNWILLINGNESS TO
APPROVE THE SENTENCE PROPOSED BY NCUSCT MAY ONLY SIGNAL
THAT NCUSCT WILL HAVE TO MAKE SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR
EACH FAIR JUST AS ORDINARY BUSINESSMEN DO. IN OUR VIEW,
THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY AN INTENTION TO REFUSE
NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVES ADMISSION TO FUTURE FAIRS.
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